

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, Claims 3 and 21 are amended, claims 32-34 are newly added and claim 10, 15, 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9, 21, 25, 26 and 32-34 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

Objection to claims 10, 15 – 18, 21 and 25 – 26

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 10, 15 – 18, 21 and 25 were objected to on the alleged grounds that the Amendment of August 28, 2006 introduces new matter into the disclosure. In view of the arguments presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2006 and the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Also at page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In view of the arguments presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2006 and the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1 – 10, 15 – 18, 21 and 25 - 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-10, 15 - 18, 21, and 25 - 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the arguments presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2006 and the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 10, 15 – 18, 21 and 25 – 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Also at page 3 of the Office Action, claims 10, 15 - 18, 21, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Morita et al., (U.S. Patent Application No. 5,793,741). (Applicants assume that the rejection is over Morita et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0027869.) In view of the arguments presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2006 and the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103:

At page 5 of the Office Action, Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al., (U.S. Patent Application No. 5,793,741). (Here again, Applicants assume that the rejection is over Morita et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0027869.) In view of the arguments presented in the Amendment filed December 20, 2006 and the claims as presented above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: JAN. 22, 2007

By: 

James G. McEwen
Registration No. 41,983

1400 Eye St., N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510